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CHAIRMAN

P810025-0889

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 25, 1981

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY
AND TRADE
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
PACIFIC AFFAIRS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
OVERSIGHT AND SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS

ACTION is assigned to NEA

The Honorable Alexander Haig
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recognizing that the United States has a real and legitimate interest in the security of both Saudi Arabia and Israel, I am quite concerned about the implications of the sale of sophisticated offensive equipment for F-15 jet fighters for Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis have called the sale a "test" of our friendship for them. I am concerned that the United States may be leaving itself vulnerable to any request by an ally being labelled a "test of our friendship for them." I believe the United States must consider very carefully the implications of the sale of such equipment not only for the relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia but also for the relations of the U.S. with other allies in the region, especially Israel.

As you know, at the time of the original purchase of the planes in 1978, Congress was given explicit and unequivocal assurances that offensive equipment, such as fuel tanks and bomb racks, would not be transferred to Saudi Arabia. It is unclear to me why this equipment is now essential for the defensive requirements of Saudi Arabia.

In view of the grave implications I have described, I urge you to seek the broadest possible consultation with the appropriate committees of both houses of the Congress before a final determination is made about Saudi Arabia's request.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
Member of Congress

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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